GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1549
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
HIV/AIDS IN CHILDREN
VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reports have appeared in the Press that a number of run-away homeless children have been living at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) about 20% of these children are afflicted with STD/HIV susceptible to AIDS;

(c) whether it is fact that a number of them are also addicted to drugs and other kinds of social abuses; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save them from the pangs of social abuses and impending deaths?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. An NGO, Save the Children (UK) has published a report`Vulnerability and Impact of HIV/AIDS on children in selected areas of Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra` conducted by Shri Vijay Rajkumar.

(b) The report has highlighted the risk behaviour of street children and their vulnerability to STD/HIV/AIDS. However, the exact prevalence of STD/HIV/AIDS has not been indicated in the report.

(c) The report states that about 40-50% of the children smoke and about 10% of them take charas, ganja or the smack. About 15% of the smack addicts injects pharmaceuticals drugs.

(d) The National AIDS Programme Phase-II has given priority to targeted interventions among vulnerable populations such as street children. It envisages a comprehensive and integrated approach to marginalized and vulnerable populations through multi-pronged strategies beginning from behaviour change communication, counselling, providing health care support, treatment of STD and creating an enabling environment that will facilitate behaviour change. The targeted interventions are being implemented by NGOs all over the country.